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## Reviews.

*Literary Sketches and Letters; being the Final Memorials of Charles Lamb. Never before Published.* By Thomas Noon Talfourd. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1848.

THE chief interest in this work, after the previous copious notices of the genius and correspondence of his subject by the same biographer, lies in the fact that it presents Lamb in an entirely new light to the public.

Despite the grace, the wit, the delicate thoughtfulness, and felicitous humor of "Elia," upon which the literary fame of Charles Lamb now and hereafter will rest almost exclusively, the elegant-minded clerk of the India House must have seemed, to many, far overrated by those of his friends who delight to name him with Wordsworth and Coleridge, as among the leading spirits of his time. Lamb, despite the healthy flow of his delicious prose, and his rare genial qualities, seemed deficient in those masculine qualities of mind which, in most cases, we trace through the author to the man, or follow up from the man to the author, before we can have full respect for the personal identity of the two. In the case of an extraordinary genius, like Goldsmith, it is, indeed, in his productions alone that we trace the full force of character; but we look for something more in one of inferior gifts to command our whole esteem, when according him a position of weight among his contemporaries; something more than the pleasant half cocknified associations which seemed to joint on one of the most agreeable humorists of his day to the high fame of a proud circle of celebrities with whom the social London-evening and litterateur-like correspondence brought him into intimate contact through the greatest portion of his life. That "something" is now supplied by these curious details of the private life of the most extraordinary domestic hero of his day. Charles Lamb, then, the modest clerk, the elegant humorist, and prime good fellow, was the life-long, the willing and consistent martyr, to the most touching career of devotion that we have on record. Of any author on the roll of English celebrities. The death of Miss Lamb, endeared to the associations of many as the "Bridget Elia" of her brother's beautiful Essays, has removed the veil of secrecy which concealed the fearful domestic sorrows of this most attached pair; and the public are now let into the fearful mystery which enshrouded the lives of both; a mystery as tragic as any interwoven with the awful destinies of the Greek drama. Mary Lamb killed her mother in a sudden fit of insanity, and her brother, devoting himself to a life of celibacy and perpetual vigil, released her from the confinement of a madhouse upon the condition that he would become her keeper as long as he should live!

Remembering the moral strength which thus characterized his life, we not only read the Essays of the gentle Elia with a deeper interest, but all that light gossiped and literary small-talkishness upon which some of the

friends of Lamb seemed to base his best title to their regard, become at once touched with tenderness and beauty in our recollection. The greatest strength of his nature was poured through another channel; and the play of his intellect as we have it, was but the foam-bead upon the inexorable tide of duty and sorrow.

Talfourd well remarks "upon the growth of certain characteristics which almost inevitably spring out of his strange condition, which he had to sustain in the gross, and yet from which he must escape in the detail, to preserve his own senses." This perpetual grasping at transient relief from the minute and vivid present, associated Lamb's affections minutely with the dull detail of daily existence. These become to him "the jutting frieze" and "coigne of vantage" in which his homebred fancy "made its bed and procreant cradle."

Poor Lamb, in short, by one tremendous sorrow was broken in pieces, and the chief occupation of his life was to polish the fragments, if we may be pardoned the conceit.

There is always some compensating arrangement in the ordinations of Providence, to us dependent mortals, and thus that dark story of Lamb's domestic misfortunes is delightfully relieved by the example of mutual reliance, of perfect literary companionship, and the most endearing affection which existed between the pair during the intervals of Miss Lamb's malady; a full communion and comfort of friendship, so absolute, that even the skeleton-like presence of the direst scourge of human happiness that can exist, did not shut out from either heart a solid sense of its fruition.

Still:—

"The constant impendency of this giant sorrow saddened to 'the Lambs' even their holidays; as the journey which they both regarded as the relief and charm of the year was frequently followed by a seizure; and, when they ventured to take it, a strait-waistcoat, carefully packed by Miss Lamb herself, was their constant companion. Sad experience, at last, induced the abandonment of the annual excursion, and Lamb was contented with walks in and near London, during the interval of labor. Miss Lamb experienced, and full well understood the premonitory symptoms of the attack, in restlessness, low fever, and the inability to sleep; and, as gently as possible, prepared her brother for the duty he must soon perform; and thus, unless he could stave off the terrible separation till Sunday, obliged him to ask leave of absence from the office as if for a day's pleasure—a bitter mockery! On one occasion Mr. Charles Lloyd met them, slowly pacing together a little footpath in Hoxton fields, both weeping bitterly, and found on joining them, that they were taking their solemn way to the accustomed Asylum!"

Of the letters given in this volume, there are none which will add especially to the fame of Lamb; the cream of his correspondence having been before given to the public by the same editor. We are strongly tempted to quote Talfourd's well-written account of the evenings at Lamb's, which he contrasts very happily with the assemblages at Holland House.

But these passages would not bear abridgment, and there is more of novelty in some other portions of the book.

We extract the following account of a literary coxcomb and most singular miscreant, who was for a while associated with De Quincey, Coleridge, and Lamb:

"Among the contributors who partook of their professional festivities, was a gentleman whose subsequent career has invested the recollection of his appearances in the familiarity of social life with fearful interest—*Mr. Thomas Griffiths Wainwright*. He was then a young man; on the bright side of thirty; with a sort of undress military air, and the conversation of a smart, lively, clever, heartless, voluptuous coxcomb. It was whispered that he had been an officer in the Dragoons; had spent more than one fortune; and he now condescended to take a part in periodical literature, with the careless grace of an amateur who felt himself above it. He was an artist also; sketched boldly and graphically; exhibited a portfolio of his own drawings of female beauty, in which the voluptuous trembled on the borders of the indelicate; and seized on the critical department of the Fine Arts, both in and out of the Magazine, undisturbed by the presence or pretensions of the finest critic on Art who ever wrote—*William Hazlitt*. On this subject, he composed, for the Magazine, under the signature of 'Janus Weathercock,' articles of flashy assumption—in which disdainful notices of living artists were set off by fascinating references to the personal appearance, accomplishments, and luxurious appliances of the writer, ever the first hero of his essay. He created a new sensation in the sedate circle, not only by his braided surtouts, jewelled fingers, and various neck-handkerchiefs, but by ostentatious contempt for everything in the world but elegant enjoyment. Lamb, who delighted to find sympathy in dissimilitude, fancied that he really liked him: took, as he ever did, the genial side of character; and, instead of disliking the rake in the critic, thought it pleasant to detect so much taste and good nature in a fashionable *roué*; and regarded all his vapid gaiety, which to severer observers looked like impertinence, as the playful effusion of a remarkably guileless nature. Thus, when expatiating in his list of choicest friends, in Elia's letter to Southey, he reckons 'W—the light, and warm-as-light hearted, 'Janus' of the "London;" and two years afterwards, adverting to the decline of the Magazine, in a letter to Mr. Barton, he persists in his belief of Wainwright's light-heartedness as pertinaciously as all the half-conscious dupes in Othello do in the assertion of Iago's honesty: 'They have pulled down Hazlitt, P——, and their best stay, kind, light-hearted W——, their "Janus." In elucidation of this apparent lightness of heart, it will not be uninteresting to trace the remainder of this extraordinary person's history; for surely no contrast presented by the wildest romance between a gay cavalier, fascinating Naples or Palermo, and the same hero, detected as the bandit or demon of the forest, equals that which time has unveiled between what Mr. Wainwright seemed, and what he was.

"Mr. Wainwright having ceased to contribute to the 'London' about the year 1825, when Lamb bestowed on him his parting eulogium, was scarcely seen in our literary circle, though he retained the acquaintance and regard of some of its members. In the year 1830 he was

residing at Linden House, Turnham Green, in the possession of which he had succeeded his uncle, Dr. Griffiths, who for many years edited a monthly publication, and whose death had occurred about a year before, after a short illness, while Mr. Wainwright and his wife were visiting at his house on the occasion of her confinement with her only child. He acquired some property at the death of his uncle, by whose bounty, being early left an orphan, he had been educated; but his expensive tastes soon brought him to severe pecuniary embarrassments and the verge of ruin. His wife's mother, who had died in Linden House after a short illness, left two daughters by Mr. Abercrombie, her second husband, named Helen Frances Phoebe, and Madeline; Mrs. Wainwright being the daughter of a former husband, named Ward. These young ladies being left without provision, except a pension of 10*l.* a year each, which had been granted to them, as the destitute daughters of a meritorious officer, by the Board of Ordnance, were invited by Mr. Wainwright to visit him at Linden House, and at the beginning of 1830, with his wife and child, formed his family.

"About this time he formed the remarkable scheme of procuring the eldest of the young ladies to effect insurances on her life, to the amount of many thousands of pounds, for the period of three, or two years. Miss Helen Frances Phoebe Abercrombie was then a lovely woman nearly of the age of twenty-one, which she attained 12th March, 1830; without expectations, except of some trifling possibility under a settlement, and, except the proceeds of the pension, without a shilling in the world; while Mr. Wainwright, who supplied the funds for this strange speculation, was in reality still poorer, being steeped in debt, impatient of privation, with ruin daily contracting its circle around him.

"The first proposal was made by Mr. Wainwright, on behalf of Miss Abercrombie, to the Palladium Insurance Office, on 28th March, for 3,000*l.* for three years. On this occasion, Mr. and Mrs. Wainwright and Miss Abercrombie called together at the office, where the object of the insurance was stated to be to enable them to recover some property to which the young lady was entitled. This proposal was accepted, and on the 20th April completed by payment of the premium for one year by the hand of Miss Abercrombie, then attended only by Mrs. Wainwright, and the delivery of the policy. On or about the same day, a similar insurance was effected with the Eagle Insurance Office for 3,000*l.*, for the term of two years, and the premium for one year and stamp duty were paid by Miss Abercrombie, in her sister's presence. In the following October four more policies were effected; with the Provident for 2,000*l.*; with the Hope for 2,000*l.*; with the Imperial for 3,000*l.*; and with the Pelican for 5,000*l.*—each on the life of Miss Abercrombie, and each for the period of two years; so that, at the close of this month of October, the life of this poor girl, described by the actuary of the Provident as 'a remarkably healthy, cheerful, beautiful young woman, whose life was one of a thousand,' was insured to the amount of 18,000*l.*, as to 3,000*l.* for three years, and for the residue for two years only. Premiums for one year, amounting, with the stamps, to something more than 220*l.*, had been paid; the premiums which would be required to keep the policies on foot for a second year amounting to 200*l.*, and in the event of her surviving the brief terms of insurance, the whole money would be lost. On every visit to the offices, Miss Abercrombie was accompanied by Mrs. Wainwright; and the appearance of these two ladies together on such an errand sometimes awakened scruples which the apparent desirableness of the life for insurance to an office did not always silence. At the Imperial it was suggested to Miss Abercrombie, by Mr. Ingall, the actuary, that 'as she only proposed to make the insurance for two years, he presumed it was to secure some property she would come into at the expiration of that time;'

to which Mrs. Wainwright replied, 'Not exactly so, it is to secure a sum of money to her sister, which she will be enabled to do by other means if she outlives that time; but I don't know much of her affairs; you had better speak to her about it.' On which Miss Abercrombie said, 'That is the case.' By what means the ladies were induced to make these statements can scarcely ever be guessed; it is certain they were illusory. No reason existed for the poor penniless girl securing 3,000*l.* for her sister in case of her own death within two years, nor was there the least chance of her receiving such a sum if living at the end of that period.

"The sum of £18,000 did not bound the limits of the speculation; for, in the same month of October, a proposal to the Eagle to increase the insurance by the addition of £2,000, was made and declined; and a proposal to the Globe for £5,000, and a proposal to the Alliance for some further sum, met a similar fate. At the office of the Globe, Miss Abercrombie, who, as usual, was accompanied by Mrs. Wainwright, being asked the object of the insurance, replied that 'she scarcely knew; but she was desired to come there by her friends, who wished the insurance done.' On being further pressed, she referred to Mrs. Wainwright, who said, 'It is for some money matters that are to be arranged; but ladies don't know much about such things;' and Miss Abercrombie answered a question, whether she was insured in any other office, in the negative. At the Alliance, Helen was more severely tested by the considerate kindness of Mr. Hamilton, who received the proposal, and who was not satisfied by her statement that a suit was depending in Chancery, which would probably terminate in her favor, but that if she should die in the interim, the property would go into another family, for which contingency she wished to provide. The young lady, a little irritated at the question, said, 'I supposed that what you had to inquire into was the state of my health, not the object for the insurance;' on which he informed her, 'that a young lady, such as she was, had come to the office two years before to effect an insurance for a short time; and that it was the opinion of the Company she had come to her death by unfair means.' Poor Helen replied, 'she was sure there was no one about her who could have any such object.' Mr. Hamilton said, 'Of course not;' but added, 'that he was not satisfied as to the object of the insurance; and unless she stated in writing what it was, and the Directors approved it, the proposal could not be entertained.' The ladies retired; and the office heard no more of the proposal, nor of Miss Abercrombie, till they heard that she was dead, and that the payment of other policies on her life was resisted.

"Mr. Wainwright's affairs soon approached a crisis, for he had given a warrant of attorney in August, and a bill of sale of his furniture at Linden House, both of which were become absolute, and seizure under which he had postponed only till the 20th or 21st of December. Early in that month he left Linden House, and took furnished lodgings in Conduit Street, to which he was accompanied by his wife and her two half-sisters. On the 13th of that month Miss Abercrombie called on a solicitor named Lys, to whom she was a stranger, and requested him to attest the execution of a will she desired to make, as she was going abroad; he complied, and she executed a will in favor of her sister Madeline, making Mr. Wainwright its executor. On the 14th, having obtained a form of assignment from the office of the Palladium, she called on another solicitor named Kirk, to whom she was also a stranger, to perfect for her an assignment of the policy of that office to Mr. Wainwright; this the solicitor did by writing in ink over words pencilled in the hand-writing of Mr. Wainwright, and witnessing her signature. On that evening, Miss Abercrombie accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Wainwright and her sister to the play, as she had done the preceding evening, and partook of oysters, or lobsters, and porter, after their return. The weather was wet; she

had walked home, as she had done the evening before; and in the night suffered from illness, which was attributed to cold. She continued ill, however, and, in a day or two, Dr. Locock was called in by Mr. Wainwright, found her laboring under derangement of stomach, and prescribed for her simple remedies. She continued indisposed, but he entertained no serious apprehensions until he was sent for on the 21st, when she died. On that morning a powder which Dr. Locock did not recollect ever prescribing, was administered to her in jelly, and Mr. and Mrs. Wainwright quitted her, to take a long walk for some hours. Soon after their departure she was seized with violent convulsions; the physician was sent for, and was shocked by her condition, and by her exclaiming, 'Oh, Doctor, these are the pains of death!' He administered proper remedies for pressure on the brain, under which she was then laboring; the symptoms subsided, and he left her in a state of composure. The convulsions, however, soon returned with increased violence; the attendant, in alarm, called in the assistant of a neighboring apothecary, in the emergency; the young man did for her the best that human skill could devise; but all assistance was in vain, and before Mr. and Mrs. Wainwright returned from their walk, she was dead. An examination of the body took place, with Mr. Wainwright's ready concurrence, which, in Doctor Locock's apprehension, left no reason to attribute the death to other than natural causes; its immediate cause was obviously pressure on the brain; and the sums, amounting to £18,000, insured on her life, became payable to Mr. Wainwright, as her executor, though, except as to two of the policies—those of the Palladium and the Hope, which had been assigned to him by poor Helen—apparently, at least, for the benefit of the sister.

"Suspicion, however, was excited; the offices resisted the claim; Mr. Wainwright left England for France, where he spent several years; and after delays, occasioned chiefly by proceedings in Equity, the question of the validity of the policies was tried, before Lord Abinger, on the 29th of June, 1835, in an action by Mr. Wainwright, as Executor of Miss Abercrombie, on the Imperial's policy. Extraordinary as were the circumstances under which the defence was made, it rested on a narrow basis—on the allegation that the insurance was not, as it professed to be, that of Miss Abercrombie, for her own benefit, but the insurance of Mr. Wainwright, effected at his cost, for some purpose of his own, and on the falsehood of representations she had been induced to make in reply to inquiries as to insurances in other offices. The cause of her death, if the insurance was really hers, was immaterial; and though surely not immaterial in the consideration of the question, whether the insurance was hers or Mr. Wainwright's, was thrown out of the case by Lord Abinger. That accomplished judge, who had been the most consummate advocate of his time, disposed always to pleasurable associations, shrank, in a Civil Court, from inquiries which, if they had been directly presented on a criminal charge, would have compelled his serious attention; stated that there was no evidence of other crime than fraud; and intimated that the defence had been injured by a darker suggestion. The jury partaking of the judge's disinclination to attribute the most dreadful guilt to a plaintiff on a *Nisi Prius* record, and, perhaps, scarcely perceiving how they could discover for the imputed fraud an intelligible motive without it, were unable to agree, and were discharged without giving a verdict. The cause was tried again before the same judge, on the 3d December following;—when the counsel for the defence, following the obvious inclination of the Bench, avoided the most fearful charge, and obtained a verdict for the Office, without hesitation, sanctioned by Lord Abinger's proffered approval to the jury.

"In the meantime, Mr. Wainwright, leaving his wife and child in London, had acquired the confidence and enjoyed the hospitality of the



family of an English officer, residing at Boulogne. While he was thus associated, a proposal was made to the Pelican Office to insure the life of his host for £5,000;—which, as the medical inquiries were satisfactorily answered, was accepted. The Office, however, received only one premium; for the life survived the completion of the insurance only a few months; falling after a very short illness. Under what circumstances Mr. Wainwright left Boulogne after this event is unknown; he became a wanderer in France; and being brought under the notice of the Correctional Police, as passing under a feigned name, was arrested. In his possession was found the vegetable poison called strychnine—which leaves little trace of its passage in the frame of its victim—and which, though unconnected with any specific charge, increased his liability to temporary restraint, and led to a six months' incarceration at Paris. After his release, he ventured to re-visit London; where, in June, 1837, soon after his arrival, he was met in the street by Forester, the police officer, who had identified him in France, and was committed for trial on a charge of forgery.

"The offence for which Mr. Wainwright was thus apprehended was not very heinous of its kind; but his guilt was clear, and the punishment, at that time, capital. It consisted in the forgery of the names of his own trustees to five successive powers of attorney to sell out stock settled on himself and his wife upon their marriage, which his exigencies from time to time had tempted him thus to realize. The Bank of England, by whom he was prosecuted, consented to forego the capital charges on his pleading guilty to the minor offence of uttering in two of the cases, which he did at the Old Bailey sessions of July, 1837, and received sentence of transportation for life. In the meantime, proceedings were taken on behalf of Miss Abercrombie's sister, Madeline, who had married a respectable bookseller named Wheatley, to render the insurances available for her benefit, which induced the prisoner to offer communications to the Insurance Offices which might defeat a purpose entirely foreign to his own; and which he hoped might procure him, through their intercession, a mitigation of the most painful severities incident to his sentence. In this expectation he was miserably disappointed; for though, in pursuance of their promise, the Directors of one of the Offices made a communication to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the result, instead of a mitigation, was an order to place him in irons, and to send him to his place of punishment in a vessel about to convey three hundred convicts. Thus terminated the European career of the 'kind and light-hearted Janus!'

"The time has not arrived for exhibiting all the traits of this remarkable person; probably before it shall arrive, the means of disclosing them will be lost, or the subject forgotten; but enough may be found disclosed in the public proceedings from which we have taken thus far our narrative, to supply an instructive contrast between his outer and inner life, and yet more instructive indications of the qualities which formed the links of connexion between them. The defect in his moral nature consisted perhaps chiefly in morbid self-esteem; so excessive as to overwhelm all countervailing feelings, and to render all the interests of others, all duties, all sympathies, all regards, subservient to the lightest efforts, or wishes, or enjoyments of the wretched idol. His tastes appreciated only the most superficial beauty; his vanities were the poorest and most empty; yet he fancied himself akin to greatness; and in one of his communications from Newgate, in his last hours of hope, he claimed for himself 'a soul whose nutriment is love, and its offspring art, music, divine song, and still holier philosophy.' When writing from the hold of the convict-ship to complain of his being placed in irons, he said—'They think me a desperado. Me! the companion of poets, philosophers, artists, and musicians, a desperado! You will smile at this,—no—I think you will feel for the man, educated and reared

as a gentleman, now the mate of vulgar ruffians and country bumpkins.' This shallow notion of being always 'a gentleman,'—one abstracted ever from conventional vulgarities—seems to have given him support in the extremity of wretchedness and infamy: the miserable reed he leaned on; not the ruling passion—but the ruling folly. 'They pay me respect here,' I assure you, said he to an acquaintance who visited him in Newgate; 'they think I am here for £10,000;' and on some of the convicts coming into the yard with brooms to perform their compulsory labor of sweeping it, he raised himself up, pulled down his soiled wristbands, and exclaimed, with a faint hilarity:—'You see those people; they are convicts like me;—but no one dares offer me the broom!' Circumstances were indeed changed, but the man was the same as when he elaborated artistic articles for the 'London.' To the last he seemed to be undisturbed by remorse; shocked only at the indignities of the penal condition of one imbued with tastes so refined, that all causes ought to give way to their indulgence. This vanity, nurtured by selfishness, and unchecked by religion, became a disease, perhaps amounting to *monomania*, and yielding one lesson to pay the world for his existence;—that there is no state of the soul so dangerous as that in which the vices of the sensualist are envenomed by the grovelling intellect of the scorner."

\* It may not be uninteresting, nor wholly unimportant, to place in contrast with this person's deplorable condition, a specimen of his composition when "topping the part" of a literary coxcomb. The following is a portion of an article under the head of "Sentimentalities on the Fine Arts; by Janus Weathercock, Esq. To be continued when he is in the humor." Published in the London Magazine for March, 1820.

"I (Janus) had made a tolerable dinner the other day at George's, and with my mind full of my last article, was holding up a *petit verre d'eau de vie de Dantzie* to the waxen candle; watching with scient eye the number of aureate particles—some swimming, some sinking quiveringly, through the oily and luscious liquor, as if informed with life, and gleaming like golden fish in the Whang-ho, or Yellow River (which, by the way, is only yellow from its mud); so was I employed, when suddenly I heard the day of the month (the 15th), ejaculated in the next box. This at once brought me back from my delicious reverie to a sense of duty. "Contributions must be forwarded by the 15th, at the very latest," were the Editor's last words to Janus, and he is incapable of forgetting them. I felt my vigorous personal identity instantly annihilated, and resolved, by some mys in process, into a part of that unimaginable plurality in unity, wherewithal, Editors, Reviewers, and, at present, pretty commonly, Authors, clothe themselves, when, seated on the topmost tip of their top-gallant masts,—they pour forth their oracular dicta on the groaning ocean of London spread out huge at their feet. Forthwith, we (Janus) sneaked home alone—poked in the top of our hollow fire, which spouted out a myriad of flames, roaring pleasantly, as chasing one another, they rapidly escaped up the chimney—exchanged our smart, tight-waisted, stiff-collared coat, for an easy chintz gown, with pink ribbons—lighted our new, elegantly-gilt French lamp, having a ground glass globe, painted with gay flowers and gaudy butterflies, hauled forth *Portfolio No. 9*, and established ourselves cozily on a Grecian couch! Then we (Janus) stroked our favorite tortoise-shell cat into a full and sonorous purr; and after that our nurse, or rather maid-servant, a good-natured, Venetian-shaped girl (having first placed on the table a genuine flask of as rich *Montepulciano* as ever voyaged from fair Italy), had gently, but firmly closed the door, carefully rendered air-tight by a gilt-leather binding (it is quite right to be particular), we indulged ourselves in a complacent consideration of the rather elegant figure we made, as seen in a large glass placed opposite our chimney-mirror, without, however, moving any limb, except the left arm, which instinctively filleted out a full cut-glass of the liquor before us, while the right rested inactively on the head of puss!

"It was a sight that turned all our gall into blood! Fancy, comfortable reader! Imprints, a very good-sized room. Item: A gay Brussels carpet covered with garlands of flowers. Item: A fine original cast of the *Venus de Medicis*. Item: Some choice volumes, in still more choice old French *moroguin*, with water-tabby silk lining. Item: Some more vols. coated by the skill of Roger Payne, and 'our Charles Lewis.' Item: A piano, by Tomkinson. Item: A Damascus sabre. Item: One cat. Item: A large Newfoundland dog, friendly to the cat. Item: A few hot-house plants on a white marble slab. Item: A delicious melting love painting, by Fuseli; and last, not least, in our dear love, *we, myself (Janus)!* Each, and the whole, seen, by the Correggio-kind of light, breathed, as it were, through the painted glass of the lamp!!!

"Soothed into that amiable sort of self-satisfaction so necessary to the bodying out those deliciously voluptuous ideas, perfumed with languor, which occasionally swim and undulate like gauzy clouds, over the brain of the most cold-blooded men, we put forth our hand to the folio,

*Lead Diseases. A Treatise from the French of L. Tanquerel Des Planches, with Notes and Additions on the Use of Lead Pipe and its substitutes.* By Samuel L. Dana, M.D. LL.D., &c. Lowell: Daniel Bixby & Co. 1848. pp. 411.

This work is not altogether within the province of a literary review, but the subject of it involves a question of so much economical importance, that we deem it worthy of a more extended notice than it has yet received in our pages.

That lead has a poisonous effect on the human system has been known from remote antiquity, but the observations and remarks of early writers on the subject were limited to one or two of the more prominent forms of disease produced by it, and it has been reserved for the present day to take a wide view of the deleterious action of this mineral, not only in the various mischiefs it produces, but in the various modes by which it gains access to the body to produce them.

To the investigation of the subject in its full extent as to one of these divisions, that is, as to the forms in which the poisonous action of lead is manifested in the production of disease, the author of this work systematically devoted himself, and after several years of labor published, as the result of his researches, a large work in two volumes, which in the year 1841 procured for the author from the Royal Academy of Sciences a prize of 6000 francs, being awarded to him from a fund given for the purpose of bestowing such a testimonial of merit upon "the best work improving medicine or surgery and diminishing the danger of certain trades in the mechanic arts."

The substance of these two volumes of M. Tanquerel is now presented to the American public in the work before us, which is at the same time both a translation and an abridgment. We have had no opportunity of comparing it with the original, of which probably very few copies are to be found in this country; but that the facts, reasonings, and doctrines are fairly and faithfully represented, we cannot for a moment doubt from the high standing of the translator as a man of integrity as well as of science, and from our own personal knowledge of his acquaintance with the subject, and his ability and disposition to do it justice. The style of the work is clear, and the author's views are given perspicuously as if in a well written, original work. In fact it seems to us that the only respect in which we should be reminded of its being in any sense a translation is, not in any Gallicism of language, but in what may be considered a Gallicism of general thought, in a certain peculiar form of conducting and putting forth a train of reasoning or discussion, differing very much from the ordinary manner of doing the same thing among English writers or ourselves, and very general among French writers on scientific subjects. The appearance of this, however, is by no means a defect; it is inseparable from a fair considera-

which leant against a chair by the sofa's side, and at hazard extracted thence—

"Lancret's charming 'Repos Italien.'  
T. P. le Bas, Sculpt."

"A summer party in the greenwood shade,  
With lutes prepared, and cloth on herbage laid;  
And ladies' laughter coming through the air."  
L. Hunt's 'Rimini.'

"This completed the charm. We immersed a well seasoned, prime pen into the silver inkstand three times, shaking off the loose ink again lingeringly, while, holding the print fast in our left hand, we perused it with half-shut eyes, dallying awhile with our delight."



tion of the subject as viewed by the author, and is a necessary representation of it.

Besides, however, presenting us thus fairly with M. Tanquerel's valuable production, Dr. Dana has added to the value of the work by a large contribution towards a branch of the subject not so fully elucidated by his author, that is, the various forms in which lead may be introduced into the human system so as to produce its injurious effects. M. Tanquerel confined himself chiefly to an examination of the effects of it when introduced, as exhibited for the most part in those classes of persons whose habitual pursuits were connected with the employment of this metal, in its production from the ore, in the manufacture of the numerous forms in which it is used, in the exercise of the arts into which these forms largely enter. A few pages are indeed devoted to "the modes of absorption of lead in individuals not connected with the lead trades," but while he mentions several, perhaps most of, the principal accidental ways in which lead may thus be introduced into the system, many of them are cursorily touched upon, and he does not seem to have extended his researches under this head to any great degree of minuteness or extent. In even a more strictly professional branch of the subject—the various modes of medical treatment of some of the diseases produced by lead—he does not seem willing to give sufficient credit to the claims put forward for the successful effects of some remedies which have obtained considerable reputation, though some of his scepticism is doubtless well founded. The translator has added to the work several notes, and an appendix of seventy pages, in which is contained a more full account of the researches establishing what may be considered the normal or at least the apparently innocuous existence of certain small quantities both of copper and lead in the human system, and a more liberal and candid account of some of the modes of medical treatment above referred to. The principal part of the appendix is, however, devoted to the consideration of what is indeed a very important part of the subject, "The use of lead as a conduit or reservoir for water for domestic purposes."

Lead pipe has long been extensively used for the purpose of conveying water from springs or natural reservoirs to the buildings erected by man for the exercise of his employments or for his residence. Various instances have occurred, and have been pointed out at different times by medical writers, in which the water so conveyed has been impregnated with the metal to such an extent as seriously to impair the health, and sometimes destroy the lives, of those who used the water for drink and for the preparation of food. Many more such instances have doubtless passed unnoticed or misunderstood, or even when known at the time to the individuals interested, passed into oblivion like the brave who lived before Agamemnon, and for the same reason. In other instances, however, the very extensive use of water conveyed in leaden pipes seemed to produce no injury, and it was concluded that certain qualities existed in some waters and not in others, that made the former act upon the metal, while the latter did not; and that by a chemical examination of any water it could be ascertained readily, whether it would be proper to use leaden pipes for its conveyance. Such, indeed, is in some degree the case, but the question is not so simple as it at first appeared. As the subject has been more profoundly and thoroughly studied, one condition after ano-

ther has become involved in it. Water from the same reservoir or spring is not always the same. A greater or less abundance of it, from a greater or less supply by the natural sources, may vary the relative portion of any mineral, organic, or gaseous ingredients it may contain, and there is perhaps no natural water perfectly pure. Changes may take place in the exposed surfaces receiving the water from the heavens by which these reservoirs are fed, and from this cause a change may take place in the quality of the ingredients, and the complicated and compounded methods employed in an extensive system of conveyance may give rise to the action of other affinities than those displayed between the water and the lead simply, and the result may be a degree or kind of action very different from what was expected from the results of the chemical examination.

It seems not improbable also, that as the effects of lead in producing disease, like those of other agents acting largely upon masses of population, are much influenced by the constitutional vigor, temperament, and habits of individuals, in some cases where the amount of the poison is very minute, while the bulk of persons exposed to it apparently escape its bad effects, various forms of ill health not hitherto noticed in connexion with it may in reality be traceable to its influence; and that as the study of these more obscure forms of disease is pursued with increased attention, new light may be thrown upon their origin, and the use of lead may be found more prejudicial than has commonly been supposed, even in the localities least suspected. So that it may ultimately come to be generally determined, that it is not prudent to employ it in any case as a conductor of water for use in domestic economy.

Whether it indeed is prudent so to employ it is in fact now made a question, in the discussion of which considerable interest is manifested. The manufacture and use of lead pipe for the conveyance of water has increased very greatly of late years in this country, and the demand for greatly increased supplies of water to our numerous and fast growing cities and towns, to meet the wants of their increasing population, renders the decision of the question of great importance; since for service pipes, and even for small mains, lead is considerably the cheapest and most durable material, as well as the one most easily managed for conveying the water to the precise spot of delivery.

The evils that have arisen from its use in some places where it was extensively employed, as well as in confined localities, and the necessity for determining upon the material for conveying a large supply through the city of Boston, have given rise to the present discussion of the question, and to the appearance of the work before us. Dr. Dana was consulted by the authorities of Lowell as to the action of the water of that city upon the leaden pipes employed to convey or raise it. The result of his examinations showed, that the water acted upon the lead, and was impregnated with it to an extent, in his opinion, capable of producing injurious effects. He was subsequently consulted on behalf of the citizens of Boston, as to the propriety of using lead for the service pipes to be employed for the distribution of the Cochituate water in that city. His opinion was against the measure; and as far as we can understand, he is from his investigations of the subject in its whole extent, strongly inclined to the negative decision of the question—that is, he

believes it is not prudent in any case to make use of leaden conduits for the conveyance of water for domestic purposes. To establish and support these views by the dissemination of full and accurate knowledge of the subject, and thus to contribute to the public weal, have been his inducements to the preparation and publication of the present volume, and in the appendix he has ably supported his opinion, as we have above stated it; with candor, however, since he admits authorities and correspondence in favor of the other side of the question.

The nature of that part of the work taken from M. Tanquerel may readily be conceived from its title; the merits of it are sufficiently vouched for by the simple fact of its having received, as we have above stated, so splendid a prize as the one awarded by the Royal Academy of Medicine, and by the terms of the award. Of the character of Dr. Dana's original portion of the work we have just given our opinion. Though M. Tanquerel's work may be regarded as almost strictly professional, yet it can in most of its general import and bearings be well understood by non-professional readers; and as a vast multitude of such have a deep interest in the subject, and a potential voice or vote in the practical decision to which the forming of an opinion on it must lead, it certainly merits their careful perusal, as well as the appendix, which treats more specially of the immediate point which they are to decide, and concerning which every man who has a voice in the affair, or who expects to use water conveyed in aqueducts, ought to enlighten himself by the acquisition of all the knowledge within his reach. We know of no work in the language that contains so good and well digested and well conveyed an amount of information on the subject, as the one now noticed, and the time at which it appears renders the labors of the translator doubly valuable, and ought greatly to enhance their merits in the eyes of the public.

*A History of New York, from the Beginning of the World to the End of the Dutch Dynasty.* By Diedrich Knickerbocker. The Author's revised edition. Complete in one volume. New York: George P. Putnam.

PUTNAM'S Edition of this celebrated work, forms the first volume of Irving's works now about to be issued complete from the press of the same publisher. "Knickerbocker's History" laid the corner stone of Washington Irving's fame; and our last perusal of the work convinces us that his genius can never be rightly understood or appreciated by one not familiar with the work. It not only contains the germs of everything that is characteristic of his later writings, but it also conveys an idea of powers far beyond anything he has ever accomplished, justly high and permanent as is his reputation in letters.

It has often occurred to us that there are two stages in the life of an author in which the peculiarities of his genius come out to the best advantage. The one is, when yet unknown to fame, his "utterances" (as Miss Martineau would call them) are instinctively from himself; the other comes, when heart-sick with writing up to a reputation, his pen is resorted to only to enforce some favorite theme, or relieve his unoccupied feelings. With reputation, springs up consciousness; and the real man never comes out while he thinks of an audience, or attempts to write up to expec-



tation. Hence is it that some of the best productions of Genius after it has attained celebrity, have been given to the word anonymously.

But we will venture further. We are strongly disposed to think then, that writing for pecuniary profit is more favorable to strong and healthy production than writing for fame. Were it otherwise, why would not amateur writers have left something behind them to compete in value with the works of professional authors? The pursuit of fame must necessarily bring that *consciousness* with it, which, as we have before said, is fatal to single-minded effort. But how is it, when "vile lucre" is the object? Why the author avenges himself for subjection to the hard needs of life by the indulgence of his own mental workings. Shakspeare wrote his poems for Fame, and those poems speak only the taste and the thoughts of the age in which he lived. He wrote his dramas for money, and they transcend the taste, and speak to the thoughts of all time. In one of his Sonnets, the player-poet says:—

"Oh, chide thou not because my nature is subdued,  
Even like the dyer's hand, by what it works in."

"What it works in" being the grub-street duty of furbishing up old plays, or dramatising the novels of the day for the Globe Theatre. Prisoned into this workhouse of literary toil, the poet avenged himself on his destiny by giving all freedom to the play of his imagination and feelings—until the common materials out of which he was called upon to produce his fabric were enwrought so richly from the exhaustless prodigality of his own mind, that they came forth new and fresh creations to the wondering world.

Yet had Shakspeare been called upon to write a prize poem for the Drury Lane Theatre of that day, he would not perhaps have soared above half a dozen writers of his time.

We are aware that all this is directly in the teeth of the popular notion of the action of genius. That spoilt and conceited animal, the public, always insists upon believing that genius works as directly with reference to its approval as does a street-pavior for that of the Board of Aldermen. But it is a great mistake to suppose that because there must be design in every great work of literature or art, that the *intention* of it is a design upon public approval. The patriot, Tell, would wish to be remembered and applauded by his countrymen. But when he seized the sword and lifted his Country's flag he struck not for honor or reputation-sake; but the emotion which impelled him made him willing to die unforgotten in her meanest ditch, if by his death he could serve her. He would have been a player and not a patriot, had he struck for the world's applause, instead of lifting his arm as he did for a cause and from a feeling which transcends all reference to men's praises. Exactly so it is with the true artist, whether poet, author, or painter, in their happiest efforts. They work from themselves—and not at the world, however grateful they may be for its cheer when faint and weary with their spirit-tasking, and needing some external stimulus for a fresh effort.

But the reader marvels how all this solemn didacticism can be suggested by a burlesque history like that of Knickerbocker. The connexion, if not already implied, is a most simple one; for *spontaneity* of feeling characterizes throughout this early production of the now illustrious pen to which that quality is now generally accorded by the warmest admirers of the *Sketch-Book*. The very origin of the

work originated in impulsive whim, as is told by its author in the following introduction, written this summer:—

"The following work, in which, at the outset, nothing more was contemplated than a temporary *jeu d'esprit*, was commenced in company with my brother, the late Peter Irving, Esq. Our idea was to parody a small hand-book which had recently appeared, entitled 'A Picture of New York.' Like that, our work was to begin with an historical sketch; to be followed by notices of the customs, manners, and institutions of the city; written in a serio-comic vein, and treating local error, follies, and abuses with good-humored satire.

"To burlesque the pedantic lore displayed in certain American works, our historical sketch was to commence with the creation of the world; and we laid all kinds of works under contribution for trite citations, relevant or irrelevant, to give it the proper air of learned research. Before this crude mass of mock erudition could be digested into form, my brother departed for Europe, and I was left to prosecute the enterprise alone.

"I now altered the plan of the work. Discarding all idea of a parody on the Picture of New York, I determined that what had been originally intended as an introductory sketch, should comprise the whole work, and form a comic history of the city. I accordingly moulded the mass of citations and disquisitions into introductory chapters forming the first book; but it soon became evident to me that, like Robinson Crusoe with his boat, I had begun on too large a scale, and that, to launch my history successfully, I must reduce its proportions. I accordingly resolved to confine it to the period of the Dutch domination, which, in its rise, progress, and decline, presented that unity of subject required by classic rule. It was a period, also, at that time almost a *terra incognita* in history. In fact, I was surprised to find how few of my fellow-citizens were aware that New York had ever been called New-Amsterdam, or had heard of the names of the early Dutch governors, or cared a straw about their ancient Dutch progenitors.

"This, then, broke upon me as the poetic age of our city; poetic from its very obscurity; and open, like the early and obscure days of ancient Rome, to all the embellishments of heroic fiction. I hailed my native city, as fortunate above all other American cities, in having an antiquity thus extending back into the regions of doubt and fable; neither did I conceive I was committing any grievous historical sin in helping out the few facts I could collect in this remote and forgotten region with figments of my own brain, or in giving characteristic attributes to the few names connected with it which I might dig up from oblivion.

"In this, doubtless, I reasoned like a young and inexperienced writer, besotted with his own fancies; and my presumptuous trespasses into this sacred, though neglected, region of history have met with deserved rebuke from men of soberer minds. It is too late, however, to recall the shaft thus rashly launched. To any one whose sense of fitness it may wound, I can only say with Hamlet,

"Let my disclaiming from a purposed evil  
Free me so far in your most generous thoughts,  
That I have shot my arrow o'er the house,  
And hurt my brother."

"I will say this in further apology for my work: that if it has taken an unwarrantable liberty with our early provincial history, it has at least turned attention to that history and provoked research. It is only since this work appeared that the forgotten archives of the province have been rummaged, and the facts and personages of the olden time rescued from the dust of oblivion and elevated into whatever importance they may actually possess.

"The main object of my work, in fact, had a bearing wide from the sober aim of history; but one which, I trust, will meet with some indul-

gence from poetic minds. It was to embody the traditions of our city in an amusing form; to illustrate its local humors, customs, and peculiarities; to clothe home scenes and places and familiar names with those imaginative and whimsical associations so seldom met with in our new country, but which live like charms and spells about the cities of the old world, binding the heart of the native inhabitant to his home.

"In this I have reason to believe I have in some measure succeeded. Before the appearance of my work the popular traditions of our city were unrecorded; the peculiar and racy customs and usages derived from our Dutch progenitors were unnoticed, or regarded with indifference, or adverted to with a sneer. Now they form a convivial currency, and are brought forward on all occasions; they link our whole community together in good humor and good fellowship; they are the rallying points of home feeling; the seasoning of our civic festivities; the staple of local tales and local pleasantries; and are so harped upon by our writers of popular fiction, that I find myself almost crowded off the legendary ground which I was the first to explore, by the host who have followed in my footsteps.

"I dwell on this head because, at the first appearance of my work, its aim and drift were misapprehended by some of the descendants of the Dutch worthies; and because I understand that now and then one may still be found to regard it with a captious eye. The far greater part, however, I have reason to flatter myself, receive my good-humored picturings in the same temper with which they were executed; and when I find, after a lapse of nearly forty years, this hap-hazard production of my youth still cherished among them; when I find its very name become a 'household word,' and used to give the home stamp to everything recommended for popular acceptance, such as Knickerbocker societies; Knickerbocker insurance companies; Knickerbocker steamboats; Knickerbocker omnibuses; Knickerbocker bread and Knickerbocker ice; and when I find New Yorkers of Dutch descent priding themselves upon being 'genuine Knickerbockers,' I please myself with the persuasion that I have struck the right chord; that my dealings with the good old Dutch times, and the customs and usages derived from them, are in harmony with the feelings and humors of my townsmen; that I have opened a vein of pleasant associations and quaint characteristics peculiar to my native place, and which its inhabitants will not willingly suffer to pass away; and that, though other histories of New York may appear of higher claims to learned acceptance, and may take their dignified and appropriate rank in the family library; Knickerbocker's history will still be received with good-humored indulgence, and be thumbed and chuckled over by the family fireside."

This is a graceful and Geoffrey Crayon-like introduction to the rollicking humor and fibrous fun of Knickerbocker; the stream of which, when most rapid, often floats some solid thought upon the surface, and then again lets you see some pearl of true sentiment snuggling at the bottom, as you look down into the eddies. Mr. Irving has, however, been arraigned for getting up his immortal travesty by others than those of Dutch descent. We are not about to copy here the severe remarks of the high-toned and candid Historian, Graham, but we could wish that Mr. Irving felt them sufficiently to induce him to write a history of the State under his Crayon alias, which should average the general effect produced by Diedrick, without at all interlarding with his individual popularity.

If the excellence of a satire consists in the permanency of its application how good are many paragraphs in the following chapter, as

now applied, some forty years after the satire of our American Cervantes was written:—

"In treating of the early governors of the province, I must caution my readers against confounding them, in point of dignity and power, with those worthy gentlemen, who are whimsically denominated governors in this enlightened republic—a set of unhappy victims of popularity, who are in fact the most dependent hen-pecked beings in the community: doomed to bear the secret goadings and corrections of their own party, and the sneers and revilings of the whole world beside. Set up, like geese at Christmas holidays, to be pelted and shot at by every whipster and vagabond in the land. On the contrary, the Dutch governors enjoyed that uncontrollable authority, vested in all commanders of distant colonies or territories. They were in a manner absolute despots in their little domains, lording it, if so disposed, over both law and gospel, and accountable to none but the mother country; which it is well known is astonishingly deaf to all complaints against its governors, provided they discharge the main duty of their station—squeezing out a good revenue. This hint will be of importance, to prevent my readers from being seized with doubt and incredulity, whenever, in the course of this authentic history, they encounter the uncommon circumstance of a governor acting with independence, and in opposition to the opinions of the multitude.

"To assist the doubtful Wouter in the arduous business of legislation, a board of magistrates was appointed, which presided immediately over the police. This potent body consisted of a schout or bailiff, with powers between those of the present mayor and sheriff—five burgermeesters, who were equivalent to aldermen, and five schepens, who officiated as scrubs, subdevils, or bottle-holders to the burgermeesters, in the same manner as do assistant aldermen to their principals at the present day; it being their duty to fill the pipes of the lordly burgermeesters—hunt the markets for delicious corporation dinners, and to discharge such other little offices of kindness as were occasionally required. It was, moreover, tacitly understood, though not specifically enjoined, that they should consider themselves as butts for the blunt wit of the burgermeesters, and should laugh most heartily at all their jokes; but this last was a duty as rarely called in action in those days as it is at present, and was shortly remitted, in consequence of the tragical death of a fat little schepen—who actually died of suffocation in an unsuccessful effort to force a laugh at one of burgermeester Van Zandt's best jokes.

"In return for these humble services, they were permitted to say *yes* and *no* at the council-board, and to have that enviable privilege, the run of the public kitchen—being graciously permitted to eat, and drink, and smoke, at all those snug junketings and public gormandizings, for which the ancient magistrates were equally famous with their modern successors. The post of schepen, therefore, like that of assistant alderman, was eagerly coveted by all your burghers of a certain description, who have a huge relish for good feeding, and an humble ambition to be great men in a small way—who thirst for a little brief authority, that shall render them the terror of the alms-house and the bridewell—that shall enable them to lord it over obsequious poverty, vagrant vice, outcast prostitution, and hunger-driven dishonesty—that shall give to their beck a hound-like pack of catchpolls and bumbailiffs—tenfold greater rogues than the culprits they hunt down!—My readers will excuse this sudden warmth, which I confess is unbecoming a grave historian—but I have a mortal antipathy to catchpolls, bumbailiffs, and little great men.

"The ancient magistrates of this city corresponded with those of the present time no less in form, magnitude, and intellect, than in prerogative and privilege. The burgomasters, like our aldermen, were generally chosen by weight

—and not only the weight of the body, but likewise the weight of the head. It is a maxim practically observed in all honest, plain-thinking, regular cities, that an alderman should be fat—and the wisdom of this can be proved to a certainty. That the body is in some measure an image of the mind, or rather that the mind is moulded to the body, like melted lead to the clay in which it is cast, has been insisted on by many philosophers, who have made human nature their peculiar study—for as a learned gentleman of our own city observes, 'there is a constant relation between the moral character of all intelligent creatures, and their physical constitution—between their habits and the structure of their bodies.' Thus we see that a lean, spare, diminutive body is generally accompanied by a petulant, restless, meddling mind—either the mind wears down the body, by its continual motion; or else the body, not affording the mind sufficient house-room, keeps it continually in a state of fretfulness, tossing and worrying about from the uneasiness of its situation. Whereas your round, sleek, fat, unwieldy periphery is ever attended by a mind like itself, tranquil, torpid, and at ease; and we may always observe, that your well fed, robustious burghers are in general very tenacious of their ease and comfort; being great enemies to noise, discord, and disturbance—and surely none are more likely to study the public tranquillity than those who are so careful of their own. Who ever hears of fat men heading a riot, or herding together in turbulent mobs?—no—no—it is your lean, hungry men who are continually worrying society, and setting the whole community by the ears.

"The divine Plato, whose doctrines are not sufficiently attended to by philosophers of the present age, allows to every man three souls—one immortal and rational, seated in the brain, that it may overlook and regulate the body—a second consisting of the surly and irascible passions which, like belligerent powers, lie encamped around the heart—a third mortal and sensual, destitute of reason, gross and brutal in its propensities, and enchained in the belly, that it may not disturb the divine soul by its ravenous howlings. Now, according to this excellent theory, what can be more clear, than that your fat alderman is most likely to have the most regular and well conditioned mind? His head is like a huge spherical chamber, containing a prodigious mass of soft brains, whereon the rational soul lies softly and snugly couched, as on a feather bed; and the eyes, which are the windows of the bed-chamber, are usually half closed, that its slumberings may not be disturbed by external objects. A mind thus comfortably lodged, and protected from disturbance, is manifestly most likely to perform its functions with regularity and ease. By dint of good feeding, moreover, the mortal and malignant soul, which is confined in the belly, and which, by its raging and roaring, puts the irritable soul in the neighborhood of the heart in an intolerable passion, and thus renders men crusty and quarrelsome when hungry, is completely pacified, silenced, and put to rest—whereupon a host of honest, good-fellow qualities and kind-hearted affections, which had lain perdue, slyly peeping out of the loop-holes of the heart, finding this Cerberus asleep, do pluck up their spirits, turn out one and all in their holiday suits, and gambol up and down the diaphragm—disposing their possessor to laughter, good humor, and a thousand friendly offices towards his fellow mortals.

"As a board of magistrates, formed on this principle, think but very little, they are the less likely to differ and wrangle about favorite opinions—and as they generally transact business upon a hearty dinner, they are naturally disposed to be lenient and indulgent in the administration of their duties. Charlemagne was conscious of this, and therefore ordered in his cartularies, that no judge should hold a court of justice, except in the morning, on an empty stomach. A pitiful rule, which I can never forgive, and which I warrant bore hard upon all the poor

culprits in the kingdom. The more enlightened and humane generation of the present day have taken an opposite course, and have so managed, that the aldermen are the best fed men in the community; feasting lustily on the fat things of the land, and gorging so heartily on oysters and turtles, that in process of time they acquire the activity of the one, and the form, the waddle, and the green fat of the other. The consequence is, as I have just said, these luxurious feastings do produce such a dulcet equanimity and repose of the soul, rational and irrational, that their transactions are proverbial for unvarying monotony—and the profound laws which they enact in their dozing moments, amid the labors of digestion, are quietly suffered to remain as dead letters, and never enforced, when awake. In a word, your fair, round-bellied burg master, like a full-fed mastiff, dozes quietly at the house-door, always at home, and always on hand to watch over its safety—but as to electing a lean, meddling candidate to the office, as has now and then been done, I would as lief put a greyhound to watch the house, or a race-horse to draw an ox wagon.

"The burgomasters then, as I have already mentioned, were wisely chosen by weight, and the schepens, or assistant aldermen, were appointed to attend upon them, and help them eat; but the latter, in the course of time, when they had been fed and fattened into a sufficient bulk of body and drowsiness of brain, became very eligible candidates for the burgomasters' chairs, having fairly eaten themselves into office, as a mouse eats his way into a comfortable lodgment in a goodly, blue-nosed, skimmed milk, New England cheese.

"Nothing could equal the profound deliberations that took place between the renowned Wouter, and these his worthy compeers, unless it be the sage divans of some of our modern corporations. They would sit for hours smoking and dozing over public affairs, without speaking a word to interrupt that perfect stillness, so necessary to deep reflection. Under the sober sway of Wouter Van Twiller and these his worthy coadjutors, the infant settlement waxed vigorous apace, gradually emerging from the swamps and forests, and exhibiting that mingled appearance of town and country, customary in new cities, and which at this day may be witnessed in the city of Washington; that immense metropolis, which makes so glorious an appearance on paper.

"It was a pleasing sight in those times, to behold the honest burgher, like a patriarch of yore, seated on the bench at the door of his whitewashed house, under the shade of some gigantic sycamore or overhanging willow. Here would he smoke his pipe of a sultry afternoon, enjoying the soft southern breeze, and listening with silent gratulation to the clucking of his hens, the cackling of his geese, and the sonorous grunting of his swine; that combination of farm-yard melody, which may truly be said to have a silvery sound, inasmuch as it conveys a certain assurance of profitable marketing.

"The modern spectator, who wanders through the streets of this populous city, can scarcely form an idea of the different appearance they presented in the primitive days of the Doubter. The busy hum of multitudes, the shouts of revelry, the rumbling equipages of fashion, the rattling of accursed carts, and all the spirit-grieving sounds of brawling commerce, were unknown in the settlement of New Amsterdam. The grass grew quietly in the highways—the bleating sheep and frolicksome calves sported about the verdant ridge, where now the Broadway loungers take their morning stroll—the cunning fox or ravenous wolf skulked in the woods, where now are to be seen the dens of Gomez and his righteous fraternity of money-brokers—and flocks of vociferous geese cackled about the fields, where now the great Tammany wigwam and the patriotic tavern of Martling echo with the wranglings of the mob.

"In these good times did a true and enviable



equality of rank and property prevail, equally removed from the arrogance of wealth, and the servility and heart-burnings of repining poverty—and what in my mind is still more conducive to tranquillity and harmony among friends, a happy equality of intellect was likewise to be seen. The minds of the good burghers of New Amsterdam seemed all to have been cast in one mould, and to be those honest, blunt minds, which, like certain manufactures, are made by the gross, and considered as exceedingly good for common use.

"Thus it happens that your true dull minds are generally preferred for public employ, and especially promoted to city honours; your keen intellects, like razors, being considered too sharp for common service. I know that it is common to rail at the unequal distribution of riches, as the great source of jealousies, broils, and heart-breakings; whereas, for my part, I verily believe, it is the sad inequality of intellect that prevails, that embroils communities more than anything else; and I have remarked that your knowing people, who are so much wiser than anybody else, are eternally keeping society in a ferment. Happily for New Amsterdam, nothing of the kind was known within its walls—the very words of learning, education, taste, and talents were unheard of—a bright genius was an animal unknown, and a blue stocking lady would have been regarded with as much wonder as a horned frog, or a fiery dragon. No man in fact seemed to know more than his neighbor, nor any man to know more than an honest man ought to know, who has nobody's business to mind but his own; the parson and the council clerk were the only two men that could read in the community, and the sage Van Twiller always signed his name with a cross.

"Thrice happy and ever to be envied little Burgh! existing in all the security of harmless insignificance—unnoticed and unenvied by the world, without ambition, without vain-glory, without riches, without learning, and all their train of carking cares—and as of yore, in the better days of man, the deities were wont to visit him on earth and bless his rural habitations, so we are told, in the sylvan days of New-Amsterdam, the good St. Nicholas would often make his appearance in his beloved city, of a holiday afternoon, riding jollily among the tree-tops, or over the roofs of the houses, now and then drawing forth magnificent presents from his breeches pockets, and dropping them down the chimneys of his favorites. Whereas in these degenerate days of iron and brass, he never shows us the light of his countenance, nor ever visits us, save one night in the year; when he rattles down the chimneys of the descendants of the patriarchs, confining his presents merely to the children, in token of the degeneracy of the parents.

"Such are the comfortable and thriving effects of a fat government. The province of the New-Netherlands, destitute of wealth, possessed a sweet tranquillity that wealth could never purchase. There were neither public commotions, nor private quarrels; neither parties, nor sects, nor schisms; neither persecutions, nor trials, nor punishments; nor were there counsellors, attorneys, catchpols, or hangmen. Every man attended to what little business he was lucky enough to have, or neglected it if he pleased, without asking the opinion of his neighbor. In those days nobody meddled with concerns above his comprehension; nor thrust his nose into other people's affairs; nor neglected to correct his own conduct, and reform his own character, in his zeal to pull to pieces the characters of others—but in a word, every respectable citizen eat when he was not hungry, drank when he was not thirsty, and went regularly to bed when the sun set and the fowls went to roost, whether he was sleepy or not; all which tended so remarkably to the population of the settlement, that I am told every dutiful wife throughout New-Amsterdam made a point of enriching her husband with at least one child a year, and very often a brace—this su-

perabundance of good things clearly constituting the true luxury of life, according to the favorite Dutch maxim, that 'more than enough constitutes a feast.' Everything, therefore, went on exactly as it should do, and in the usual words employed by historians to express the welfare of a country, 'the profoundest tranquillity and repose reigned throughout the province.'

### Extracts from Unpublished Works.

[From Squiers and Davis's Work on the Antiquities of America.]

#### ANTIQUITY OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE antiquity of the ancient monuments of the Mississippi valley has been made the subject of incidental remark in the foregoing chapters. It will not be out of place here to allude once more to some of the facts bearing upon this point. Of course no attempt to fix their date accurately can, from the circumstances of the case, be successful. The most that can be done is to arrive at approximate results. The fact that none of the ancient monuments occur upon the latest-formed terraces of the river valleys of Ohio is one of much importance in its bearings upon this question. If, as we are amply warranted in believing, these terraces mark the degrees of subsidence of the streams, one of the four which may be traced has been formed since those streams have followed their present courses. There is no good reason for supposing that the mound-builders would have avoided building upon that terrace, while they erected their works promiscuously upon all the others. And if they had built upon it, some slight traces of their works would yet be visible, however much influence we may assign to disturbing causes,—overflows, and shifting channels. Assuming, then, that the lowest terrace, on the Scioto river for example, has been formed since the era of the mounds, we must next consider that the excavating power of the western rivers diminishes yearly, in proportion as they approximate towards a general level. On the lower Mississippi,—where alone the ancient mountains are sometimes invaded by the water,—the bed of the stream is rising, from the deposition of the materials brought down from the upper tributaries, where the excavating process is going on. This excavating power, it is calculated, is in an inverse ratio to the square of the depth, that is to say, diminishes as the square of the depth increases. Taken to be approximately correct, this rule establishes that the formation of the latest terrace, by the operation of the same causes, must have occupied much more time than the formation of any of the preceding three. Upon these premises, the time, since the streams have flowed in their present courses, may be divided into four periods, of different lengths,—of which the latest, supposed to have elapsed since the race of the mounds flourished, is much the longest.

The fact that the rivers, in shifting their channels, have, in some instances, encroached upon the superior terraces, so as, in part, to destroy works situated upon them, and afterwards receded to long distances, of a fourth or half a mile or upwards, is one which should not be overlooked in this connexion. In the case of the "High Bank Works," Plate XVI., the recession has been nearly three-fourths of a mile, and the intervening terrace or "bottom" was, at the period of the early settlement, covered with a dense forest. This recession and subsequent forest growth must of necessity have taken place since the river encroached upon the ancient works here alluded to.

Without doing more than allude to the circumstance of the decayed state of the skeletons found in the mounds and to the amount of vegetable accumulations in the ancient excavations, and around the ancient works, we pass to another fact, perhaps more important in its bearing upon the question of the antiquity of these works than any of those presented above. It is that they are covered with primitive forests, in no way distinguishable from those which surround them, in places where, it is probable, no clearings were ever made. Some of the trees of these forests have a positive antiquity of from six to eight hundred years. They are found surrounded with the mouldering remains of others, undoubtedly of equal original dimensions, but now fallen and almost incorporated with the soil. Allow a reasonable time for the encroachment of the forest, after the works were abandoned by their builders, and for the period intervening between that event and the date of their construction, and we are compelled to assign them no inconsiderable antiquity. But, as already observed, the forests covering these works correspond in all respects with the surrounding forests; the same variety of trees are found, in the same proportions, and they have a like primitive aspect. This fact was remarked by the late President HARRISON, and was put forward by him as one of the strongest evidences of the high antiquity of these works. In an address before the Historical Society of Ohio, he said:

"The process by which nature restores the forest to its original state, after being once cleared, is extremely slow. The rich lands of the West are, indeed, soon covered again, but the character of the growth is entirely different, and continues so for a long period. In several places upon the Ohio, and upon the farm which I occupy, clearings were made in the first settlement of the country, and subsequently abandoned and suffered to grow up. Some of these new forests are now sure of fifty years' growth, but they have made so little progress towards attaining the appearance of the immediately contiguous forest, as to induce any man of reflection to determine that at least ten times fifty years must elapse before their complete assimilation can be effected. We find in the ancient works all that variety of trees which give such unrivalled beauty to our forests, in natural proportions. The first growth on the same kind of land, once cleared and then abandoned to nature, on the contrary, is nearly homogeneous, often stunted to one or two, at most three kinds of timber. If the ground has been cultivated, the yellow locust will thickly spring up; if not cultivated, the black and white walnut will be the prevailing growth. \* \* \* Of what immense age, then, must be the works so often referred to, covered as they are by at least the second growth, after the primitive forest state was regained?"

It is not undertaken to assign a period for the assimilation here indicated to take place. It must unquestionably, however, be measured by centuries.

In respect to the extent of territory occupied at one time, or at successive periods, by the race of the mounds, so far as indicated by the occurrence of their monuments, little need be said in addition to the observations presented in the first chapter. It cannot, however, have escaped notice, that the relics found in the mounds,—composed of materials peculiar to places separated as widely as the ranges of the Alleghanies, on the east, and the

Sierras of Mexico, on the west, the waters of the great lakes on the north, and those of the Gulf of Mexico on the south,—denote the contemporaneous existence of communication between these extremes. For we find, side by side in the same mounds, native copper from Lake Superior, mica from the Alleghanies, shells from the Gulf, and obsidian (perhaps porphyry) from Mexico. This fact seems seriously to conflict with the hypothesis of a migration, either northward or southward. Further and more extended investigations and observations may, nevertheless, serve satisfactorily to settle not only this, but other equally interesting questions connected with the extinct race, whose name is lost to tradition itself, and whose very existence is left to the sole and silent attestation of the rude but often imposing monuments which throng the valleys of the West.

### Poetry.

#### ENDURANCE.

"*He turned to him sorrowfully, saying, 'Thou art free'—then first did he feel how deep is the bondage of love.*"—MS.

I HAVE loosed every bond from thy uneasy heart,  
Have given thee back every pledge that was dear—  
I have bidden thee go, yet thou wilt not depart—  
I have prompted away, yet still thou art here.

I knew that thy freedom would be but in vain,  
Thy bondage the same, though absent the token—  
The chain may be reft, yet the scar will remain,  
The weight will be felt, though the links are all broken.

I shed not a tear when I bade thee depart—  
My lip curled with pride, but nothing with scorn—  
If the pang or the aching were felt at the heart,  
Thou could'st not divine that it nourished the thorn.

I dreamed not of comfort, I prayed not for bliss—  
In loving I knew was the wreck of my life—  
In silence I bowed and asked but for this,  
Thou ever the same in my darkness and strife.

The prayer hath been mocked—it is well that we part,  
Yet it grieves me a will so unfettered as thine  
Should wrestle in vain with the bonds of the heart,  
A captive unwilling in jessies of mine.

I would send thee away with fetterless wing,  
With eye, that nor dimness nor sorrow hath known—  
The free airs of heaven around thee should sing,  
And I bear the shaft and the anguish alone.

I have learned to endure—I have hugged my despair—  
I scourge back the madness that else would invade—  
On my brain falls the drop, after drop, yet I bear,  
Lest thou should'st discover the wreck thou hast made.

E. H.—1846.

### Glimpses of Books.

GODWIN AND TALFOURD.—Mr. Godwin was thus a man of two-beings, which held little discourse with each other—the daring inventor of theories constructed of air-drawn diagrams—and the simple gentleman, who suffered nothing to disturb or excite him, beyond his study. He loved to walk in the crowded

streets of London, not, like Lamb, enjoying the infinite varieties of many-colored life around him, but because he felt, amidst the noise, and crowd, and glare, more intensely the imperturbable stillness of his own contemplations. His means of comfortable support were mainly supplied by a shop in Skinner street, where, under the auspices of "M. J. Godwin and Co.," the prettiest and wisest books for children issued, which old fashioned-parents presented to their children, without suspecting that the graceful lessons of piety and goodness which charmed away the selfishness of infancy, were published and sometimes revised, and now and then written by a philosopher, whom they would scarcely venture to name! He met the exigencies which the vicissitudes of business sometimes caused, with the trusting simplicity which marked his course—he asked his friends for aid without scruple, considering that their means were justly the due of one who toiled in thought for their inward life, and had little time to provide for his own outward existence; and took their excuses when offered, without doubt or offence. The very next day after I had been honored and delighted with an introduction to him at Lamb's chambers, I was made still more proud and happy by his appearance at my own on such an errand—which my poverty, not my will, rendered abortive. After some pleasant chat on indifferent matters, he carelessly observed that he had a little bill for £150 falling due on the morrow, which he had forgotten till that morning, and desired the loan of the necessary amount for a few weeks. At first, in eager hope of being able thus to oblige one whom I regarded with admiration akin to awe, I began to consider whether it was possible for me to raise such a sum; but, alas! a moment's reflection sufficed to convince me that the hope was in vain, and I was obliged, with much confusion, to assure my distinguished visitor how glad I should have been to serve him, but that I was only just starting as a special pleader, was obliged to write for magazines to help me on, and had not such a sum in the world. "Oh dear," said the philosopher, "I thought you were a young gentleman of fortune—don't mention it—don't mention it; I shall do very well elsewhere."—and then, in the most gracious manner, reverted to our former topics; and sat in my small room for half an hour, as if to convince me that my want of fortune made no difference in his esteem. A slender tribute to the literature he had loved and served so well, was accorded to him in the old age to which he attained, by the gift of a sinecure in the exchequer of about £200 a year, connected with the custody of the records; and the last time I saw him he was heaving an immense key to unlock the musty treasure of which he was guardian—how unlike those he had unlocked, with finer talisman, for the astonishment and alarm of one generation, and the delight of all others.—*Talfourd's Final Memorials of Charles Lamb.*

#### THE VARIOUS STAGES OF THE MESMERIC CONDITION.

FIRST.—the simple sleep, without phenomena of any description. Secondly,—the deep sleep or coma, in which the sleeper speaks to the Mesmeriser, and exhibits attachment, or sympathy, or attraction, according to the passes, and insensibility to pain. Thirdly,—the sleep-waking state, in which the patient converses freely, and often noisily, with the Mesmeriser, and shows community of taste and sensation, &c. It is this peculiar freedom of manner that

is exhibited by the sleep-waker in this stage, which is often so perplexing to the stranger and to the incredulous. The sceptic cannot understand it, and will not believe it to be genuine. In short, he deems it the most impudent part of the whole imposture, though, in truth, it is one of the most convincing points as to the reality of mesmerism. Dr. Forbes, in a paper in the *Medical Gazette*, on his search for clairvoyance, speaks of a sleeper "waking up in the brisk pert humor common to the so-called somnambulists." This "brisk pert humor," however, is what I have seen manifested in the sleep-waking state by all classes of patients, by the most ignorant and the most refined,—by those whose delicacy of taste would shrink from thus exhibiting themselves, and by those who have never seen or heard of mesmerism. Mr. Townshend says, "Mesmerised persons speak with a freedom, instances of which being related to them in their waking condition cause them surprise, and even vexation. I have had patients apologize to me for what I told them they had said or done during their sleep, and evidently were more than half-incredulous as to its truth. Dr. Elliston observes, 'The generality of this striking effect is one proof of the reality of the mesmeric state. This happy feeling of equality depends upon the cerebral character and education of the patient. Those whose familiar conversation (when awake) is marked by levity, may, in the mesmeric state, rattle and be rude,—and then, if there is a degree of delirium mixed with it, the conduct begets a suspicion of imposition.' Dr. Esdaile describes how the same freedom of manner developed itself among the Hindoos. He mentions a case, where (to use his own words), 'those who did not see the somnambulist, may imagine how little the poor fellow knew what he was about, when they are told that he took the 'longitude' of the Judges of the Supreme Court with the cool impudence and precision of a cabman.' But the most striking instance is that recorded by Mr. Eliot Warburton, of what occurred at Damascus, with a black slave whom he mesmerised. The sleeper, with a fearful howl, suddenly started to his feet, flung wide his arms, seized a large vase of water and dashed it into fragments, smashed a lantern into a thousand bits, and rushed about the court-yard. All this was done by a slave in the presence of his master! When awakened, he was quite unconscious of all that he had done, but described his sensations as having been delightful, that of perfect freedom, of a man with all his rights, such as he had never felt before in his life. The fourth stage is that of clairvoyance and of the ecstatico-prophetic, in which the sleeper appears to acquire new senses, and obtains, with the vulgar, the reputation of the miraculous. Clairvoyance has several degrees, and various powers. Mental travelling, thought-reading, prevision, introvision, pure clairvoyance, are the terms most generally employed to describe the highest phenomena. Of these, introvision, by which the clairvoyant is enabled to see the structure of the human frame, and report the condition of a diseased organ, would seem to be the most useful. Clairvoyance is a fatiguing and exhausting condition. The presence of septs has a disturbing effect: it is not always the same on all occasions (most especially, it is said, with women); and, if the faculty be overworked, it will fail altogether. Clairvoyants are very vain of what they can perform, and are fond of creating wonder. If the mesmeriser encourages display, their vanity will increase



and their wonders also. This has been the source of much imposture, and of discredit to mesmerism.—*Sandby's Mesmerism and its Opponents.*

### Miscellany.

#### SLEEP.

BY SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.

COME, sleep, oh sleep! the certain knot of peace,  
The bailing place of wit, the balm of woe,  
The poor man's wealth, the prisoner's release,  
The indifferent judge between the high and low.  
With shield of proof shield me from doth throw;  
Or those fierce darts despair at me doth throw;  
Oh make in me those civil wars to cease:  
I will good tribute pay, if thou do so.  
Take thou of me smooth pillows, sweetest bed;  
A chamber, deaf to noise, and blind to light;  
A rosy garland, and a weary head.  
And if these things, as being thine by right,  
Move not thy heavy grace, thou shalt in me  
Liveller than elsewhere Stella's image see.

#### DEATH OF SIR N. HARRIS NICOLAS.

DEATH has been busy lately in our especial world. Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas, a very eminent English antiquary—a much greater man than Stukeley, or Strutt, or Douce, or Peck, or Hearne—has just been removed from among us. He died at Boulogne, on the 3d instant, of congestion of the brain. He was the fourth son of John Harris Nicolas, of East Looe, in Cornwall, a Captain in the Royal Navy, and was born on the 10th of March, 1799. He entered the Navy on the 27th of October, 1808—served under his brother, Captain J. Toup Nicolas, C.B.—and was frequently engaged at the capture and destruction of armed vessels and convoys on the Calabrian coast. He was made a lieutenant 20th September, 1815; but, proving unsuccessful in his efforts to obtain employment, he retired on half-pay,—took to the study of English antiquities and English law,—married 28th March, 1822,—published his first work in 1823,—and in May, 1825, was called to the Bar by the Society of the Inner Temple. His first work was “*The Life of Secretary Davison*,”—still a most useful publication. In 1824 he put forth “*Notitia Historica*,”—containing tables, calendars, and miscellaneous information for the use of historians, antiquaries, and the legal profession. A curious and important “*Catalogue of the Herald's Visitations*” was published in 1825; and his invaluable “*Synopsis of the Peerage of England*,” in 2 vols. 12mo., the same year. In 1826 he published his “*Testamenta Vetusta*,”—a most curious and readable collection of wills from the reign of Henry II. to the time of Queen Elizabeth; and in 1827 the four following works, of which it will be enough to transcribe the titles:—“*History of the Town and School of Rugby*,” “*A Chronicle of London*,” “*Memoir of Augustine Vincent, Windsor Herald*,” and “*The History of the Battle of Agincourt, with the Roll of the Men-at-Arms in the English Army*.” His diligence almost surpasses belief. The “*Roll of Arms of Peers and Knights in the Reign of Edward II.*” and “*The Statutes of the Order of the Guelphs*” appeared in 1828; and “*The Roll of Arms of the Reigns of Henry III. and Edward III.*” and “*The Statutes of the Order of the Thistle*” in 1829. The *Household Book of Elizabeth of York* (the queen of Henry VII.) and the *Household Book of Henry VIII.* were two of his more important contributions to biographical and domestic history. His Report on the L'Isle peerage case and his “*History of the Earldoms of Strathern, Monteth, and Airth*” are monuments of human diligence in matters connected with genealogy. His “*Life of Chaucer*” and his lives of

Walton and Cotton prefixed to Mr. Pickering's beautiful edition of “*The Complete Angler*,” exhibit the most successful research in channels of information hitherto imperfectly explored or altogether unexamined. His edition of Davison's “*Poetical Rhapsody*” is an instance of his skill in a different department of our literature:—the text is elaborately accurate, and the notes and memoirs are full and precise. His “*Serape and Grosvenor Roll*” and his “*Siege of Caerlaverock*” exhibit all his accustomed diligence and the vast extent of his biographical information. The “*Memoir of Sir Kenelm Digby*” and the “*Autobiography of Lady Fanshawe*” continue to be considered most agreeable contributions to our lighter literature;—and “*The Chronology of History*,” compiled for “*Lardner's Cyclopædia*,” is a work of which we have had occasion to test the extraordinary value on many occasions when historians are at variance on the accuracy of a date of historical importance. His “*Life of Sir Christopher Hatton*” contains a sarcastic exposure in every page of the errors in Lord Campbell's *Life of the handsome Lord Chancellor*;—and his unfinished “*History of the British Navy*” exhibits the new and important matter that he could bring to bear on whatever subject he undertook to illustrate. His great works, however, and those by which his name will be best remembered, are those of his “*History of the Orders of Knighthood of the British Empire*,” in four thick volumes, and his edition of “*Lord Nelson's Letters and Despatches*,” in seven octavo volumes. He was engaged till within a week of his death in editing the papers of Sir Hudson Lowe, and throwing what light his unremitting exertions could contribute in elucidation of a very painful but important subject of historical inquiry. He has left a widow and eight children to lament his loss:—and, we are sorry to add, with very little provision for their future maintenance. A part of what remains of the 1,200*l.* a year assigned by Parliament for pensions to men, and the widows and children of men, of literary and scientific attainments could not be more deservedly given than in the case of the family of Sir Harris Nicolas. We are glad to think that the friends of Sir Harris are already active in the matter.—*Athenæum*, August 12.

DEATH OF CAPT. MARRYATT, C. B.—This distinguished officer and novelist expired at his seat, Langham, county Norfolk, on Wednesday, the 9th August, after a long and painful illness, caused by the bursting of a succession of blood vessels, in the 56th year of his age. Captain Marryatt was second son of the late Joseph Marryatt, Esq., M. P. of Wimbledon-house, Surrey, and married Catherine, only daughter of the late Sir Stephen Shairp, Bart., N.B., by whom he leaves a family of six children. When at Hastings, in the month of February last, Captain Marryatt read in the *Times* newspaper the account of the total loss of her Majesty's ship *Avenger*, in which his eldest son perished. For some time it was feared the shock would have been fatal. Captain Marryatt's talents as a writer are too well known, and his services as an officer have been too lately laid before the public to require any further comment.—*London paper*.

NOVEL LAW-CASE BETWEEN SOVEREIGNS.—*House of Lords.*—*The Duke of Brunswick v. the King of Hanover.*—This was an appeal against a decree of the Master of the Rolls. A bill was filed by Charles Frederick Duke of

Brunswick against the King of Hanover, who was sued as Ernest Augustus Duke of Cumberland and Teviotdale, in Great Britain, and Earl of Armagh, in Ireland. The bill prayed a declaration that a certain instrument, dated the 6th of February, and 14th of March, 1833, and made by King William IV., the King of Hanover, and by William the reigning Duke of Brunswick, and the appointment of the Duke of Cambridge as guardian of the fortune and property of the plaintiff, and of the persons appointed managers under him, and the subsequent appointment of the defendant as such guardian, were absolutely void; and that the defendant was liable to account to the plaintiff for the property and effects of the plaintiff possessed by the defendant, in virtue of the powers given by the first-named instrument; and that accounts might accordingly be taken. The Master of the Rolls held that the matter complained of was an act done by a foreign sovereign prince in his own country, and could not, therefore, be made the subject of a suit in equity here. The Lord Chancellor, in giving judgment, said all the noble and learned lords present were of opinion that the judgment of the Master of the Rolls was right. It was very clear to his own mind that a foreign sovereign coming to this country, whether a sovereign or subject, could not be held responsible in our courts for acts done by him abroad, and those acts here complained of and done abroad were not done, or alleged to be done, by the defendant as a British subject. It may be a question even how far a sovereign prince can be held liable to the jurisdiction of our courts; but it was not necessary to decide that question in this case, for the bill did not state such facts as would raise the question. The bill stated various facts, but not such as raised that question; and it was the duty of the pleader, if that question was to be raised at all, to state such facts. The Master of the Rolls appeared to think that there was a balance, and that there was some difficulty in deciding whether the acts alleged as done abroad were of a public or private character; but he decided that they were acts of state. The statements on the bill appeared to him (the Lord Chancellor) not to leave the character of the acts in any ambiguity, for they clearly showed that the acts alleged and complained of were acts done by the defendant in his character as sovereign, and in a foreign country. In his mind there was not any doubt that the instrument set forth in the bill, and under which the acts there complained of were done, was an instrument of state, made by sovereign princes in the exercise of their sovereign power; and that being so, it was impossible for the courts of this country to interfere or exercise any jurisdiction. It may be true that these acts are contrary to the laws of Hanover and Brunswick; but no court in this country can entertain questions between sovereign princes or states. If the facts in this bill were correctly stated, the Master of the Rolls very properly allowed the demurrer.—*Jerrold's paper*.

Rev. John Williams, D. D., has been chosen President of Trinity College, Hartford, in place of Rev. Dr. Totten, resigned.

The city of Columbus, Ohio, charged one Professor Keely forty odd dollars for a license to lecture on Mesmerism in that city.

Miss Harriet Livermore, of New Hampshire, who has made two pilgrimages to Jerusalem, is now lecturing, in order to obtain funds to make a third visit to the same city.

## "PARAMYTHIEN" OF HERDER.

## THE ROSE.

I SEE all flowers round about me here fading and dying, and yet I alone am ever termed the fading-away, the easily perishing Rose. Ungrateful men! do I not make my short existence pleasant enough to you? Do I not in truth, after my death even, prepare for you a sepulchre of sweet odors, medicines and ointments full of refreshing and strengthening qualities? And notwithstanding this I hear you ever singing and saying, "Ah! how fading, how easily perishing is the Rose!"

Thus lamented the queen of flowers upon her throne, perchance already in the first perception of her declining beauty. A maiden, standing before her, overheard her and said: "Be not angry with us, sweet pretty-one! Call not ingratitude, that which is a higher love, the wish of a fond inclination,—we see all flowers around us die, and we consider such the destiny of flowers; but thee, thee alone, do we wish and hold worthy of immortality. If we find ourselves disappointed in our desires, yet leave to us the lamentation by which in thee we bewail our destiny—all the beauty, youth, and joy of our life we compare to thee, and as they like thyself wither away, so do we sing and say, 'Ah! how fading, how easy to fall to pieces is the Rose!'"

## THE LILY AND THE ROSE.

Tell me, ye charming daughters of the rough, black earth, who gave you your beautiful shapes, for in truth by delicate fingers were ye moulded? What tiny spirits have ascended out of your cups, and what delights did you feel as Goddesses rocked themselves upon your leaves? Tell me, peaceful flowers, how did you dispose yourselves in your joyful occupation, and beckon to each other when you wove your fine web, when you decorated and embroidered it in such a manifold manner?

But ye are silent, graceful children, and enjoy your existence. Well! let the instinctive fable tell what your mouths keep concealed from me.

The earth once existed as a bare rock. Look! a cheerful band of nymphs convey the virgin soil upon it, and kind Genii are ready to cover it with flowers. They dispose themselves in their occupation in various ways; modest Humility has already commenced beneath the snow, and amid the cold short grass, and woven the retiring violet; Hope follows after her, and fills with cooling moisture the small cups of the refreshing hyacinth. Now, as these have so well succeeded, comes a proud glittering company of beauties of diverse colors. The tulip elevates the head, and the narcissus looks around with languishing eyes.

Many other Goddesses and Nymphs busy themselves in different ways, and ornament the earth, rejoicing over its beautiful form. And look! as a great portion of her works had ceased to bloom to their own and her pleasure, Venus also addresses her Graces. "Why do ye dally, charming sisters! Up! and weave from your charms also, a mortal, visible flower!" They descend to the earth, and Aglaja, the Grace of Innocence, forms the lily; Thalia and Euphrosyne weave with sisterly hands, the flower of joy and love, the virgin Rose.

Many flowers of the field and garden envied each other. The lily and rose envied none, but were themselves envied by all. They bloom as sisters together on one of the fields of Hora, and mutually adorn each other, for

the sisterly graces have woven them inseparable.

Thus do the lilies and roses bloom upon your cheeks, oh maidens! May their attendants, innocence, joy, and love, united and inseparable, dwell upon them also!

COPYRIGHT.—*Vice-Chancery.*—*Bentley v. Vickers.*—Mr. C. P. Cooper moved for a special injunction *ex parte* to restrain the defendant, who is the proprietor of a publication called the "London Journal" from publishing and selling certain numbers of that work, in which all the principal passages of a work by Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, called "Harold, the last of the Saxon Kings," had been published. The plaintiff stated that he had purchased the copyright of the work in question in June last, of the author for £1,600. Sir L. Shadwell observed that it was a matter of course to make the order.—*Jerrold's paper.*

M. Guizot is reported to be in Scotland, spending a few weeks at the ancient city of St. Andrews. His object is to consult some rare valuable historic treasures that exist in the University library. This would show that the ex-minister has resumed those profound historical investigations which first raised him to European celebrity.

The North-Western Educational Society held its annual meeting in Detroit. A large number of teachers, and others interested in the cause of education, were in attendance, representing, we believe, all the north-western States to the Mississippi river, as well as New York and New England. The objects of this association are intimately connected with the great cause of popular education in the north-west.

## Recent Publications.

*Lectures to Young Ladies on Subjects of Practical Importance.* By Rev. Daniel C. Eddy. Lowell: B. C. Sargeant. 12mo. pp. 252. 1849.

THE object of the author of this work is concisely and forcibly explained in the preface to be "to hurl a firebrand into the camp of Satan," and if he has succeeded in doing so, he professes himself perfectly content with his achievement, and does not seem inclined even to wait to ascertain its effect. From the language of the same preface, we should judge he considered himself well supplied with these incendiary missiles, and that it will not be for want of will that the whole camp is not set in a blaze. In a previous paragraph he remarks: "An effort to stay crime—to dry up the fountain of vice—to roll back the waves of death and damnation, requires no apology." And again,—"He who can tramp about amidst broken hearts, and crushed hopes, and blasted forms—he who can stand up amidst groans of victims, and sights of woe, to rebuke vice and not feel indignant, must have a heart as cold as Greenland." The elegance of this language is only equalled by its figurative beauty; but to our common apprehension it is not very clear why a man who first "tramps about" in so very exceptionable a manner, and finishes the performance by standing up and looking at what he has done, should feel his bosom burn with indignation. It is rather the looker-on who should give vent to that feeling; and as lookers-on, we protest against the slander upon the whole town of Lowell, which is implied by the general tenor of this book. Judging of the inhabitants by these "Lectures," the reader would infer that it was a sink of abominations; but trustworthy evidence has long proclaimed that it is in no degree amenable to such an accusation, and that for propriety of conduct, and examples of female

virtue and intelligence, the factory girls of Lowell are inferior to no other class of operatives in the United States.

Let us look at these "Lectures" a little more closely. The preface is made up of the same kind of farrago as has been already quoted. The motto paraded ostentatiously on the title-page is—"Who can find a Virtuous Woman? for her price is far above Rubies!" The Lectures are ten in number; the first is entitled "The Woman of Pleasure;" and in this category are included all who think proper to practise rather than profess. "She may bind up the broken heart; she may pour consolation into the wounded soul; she may lift the head of the sick, and smoothe the pillow of the dying; she may watch over the couch of pain, and spread flowers over and around the tomb of the dead; and in all these ways she may do good to others;" she may spend her days in the exercise of all the virtues that have ever adorned humanity, and her nights in anxious watching and deep reflection; but if she "neglects the future," "for her to live is sinful," "for her to die is sinful," because she is an enemy to God, and she is dead to usefulness, to happiness, to hope—with much more of the same sort. Lecture II. goes to show that attention to health is a religious duty. We are here told that the genuine woman of fashion is one who, when she looks at the rainbow, "only wonders how these colors would look in a new robe;" and that the country girl who lays aside her simple homespun, on coming to Lowell to work in the factories, and procures "a whole new dress," is on the high road to become a woman of fashion, and "overstepping all limits, she strives to surpass all around her, and soon she is found the most brilliant of the throng!" "In making this change, health is disregarded—fashionable but uncomfortable robes are procured," &c., and consumption is the result. We have yet to learn that the industrious operatives of Lowell are all genuine women of fashion. Carelessness, study, labor, and dissipation (under which is included the awful crime of dancing), are also designated as sources of ill health. Lecture III. is devoted to the abuse of time, and tells us if any relaxation is to be had, it should consist in "walking along the banks of a stream" where "the mind may be employed in the most pleasant and profitable exercises" or with a friend in instructive conversation. Eight or ten hours of constant labor at the loom, of course, leave mind and body in the most favorable state to enter upon this course of private meditation and philosophic discourse. And this puritanical stuff is continued through two hundred and fifty pages, including "a glance at the theatre," and "temptations to immorality unmasked," all treated in an *in terrorem* and exaggerated style, manufacturing giants to have the credit of knocking them down; driving with uplifted whip instead of guiding with kind and soothing words; and absolutely polluting the mind of the hearer by pertinaciously dabbled in every mud-puddle which he can find, instead of leading the thoughts to higher and better things, and giving examples and instructions instinct with purity and love.

Our author informs us that he knows of "no other book of the kind." Neither do we; and we hope we never shall.

*Leaflets of Memory, for 1849.* Philadelphia: E. H. Butler & Co.

THIS illuminated Annual, edited by Dr. Revnell Coates, fully sustains this year its previously acquired reputation. It is a very elegant octavo whose letter-press is a credit to the typographical execution of the city whence it emanates.

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